

# Archives and Special Collections

## University Libraries



### Special Collection Spec009

#### JOHN GRAAS LIBRARY

#### Biography

John Graas was one of the first jazz French horn soloists. Born in Dubuque, Iowa, on March 14, 1917, he began playing the French horn in high school. In his teens he won a national contest that took him to Tanglewood, where he played under Koussevitsky, learning the fundamentals of classical music. In 1942 he became a member of the Claude Thornhill Orchestra. After a period in the Army (1942-1945) and stints with the Cleveland Orchestra and Tex Beneke's big band, Graas' got his first high-profile gig, playing with Stan Kenton's Innovations Orchestra (1950-1951). Later, he settled in Los Angeles and worked as a studio musician in addition to being used on West Coast jazz dates by Shorty Rogers and others. As a composer, Graas sought to combine together jazz and classical music, and recorded fairly regularly as a leader during from 1953-1958. He died of a heart attack at the age of 45 in April 1962.

#### Scope and Content

This collection consists of a variety of music folders, scrapbooks, reel-to-reel recordings and two vinyl albums. Also included are a mute maker and two mouth pieces.

#### Box 1

##### I. JAZZ ARRANGEMENTS by John Graas.

- A. Argyles (arr. #2)-hrn, tpt, alto, ten, bar. (trom), piano, brass, drums.
- B. Midnight Sun - tpt, alto, hrn, tenor, bari, tuba, piano, base, drums.
- C. Inch Worm (arr. #1)-tpt, hrn, alto, tenor, bari & fl, tuba, piano, bass, drums & timp.
- D. Porgy and Bess Medley (arr. #1) full Jazz Band.
- E. Let's Fall in Love (arr. #2) tpt, alto hrn, ten. bari, tuba, piano, bass, drums
- F. Softly the Horn Blows (arr. #2) hrn, tpt, ten, bari, bass sex, piano, bass, drum.
- G. 12th Street Rag - tpt, alto, hrn, piano, bass, drums, guitar.
- H. Midnight Sun March (arr. #2) full Jazz Band.
- I. Let's Fall in Love (arr. #1, vocal) tpt, alto, tenor, bari, trom, hrn, bass, drums. Includes a lead part for "Skip".
- J. Gigi Medley (arr. #1) - Full Jazz Band.

#### Box 2

- K. "Fallout" from Peter Gunn - Full Jazz Band.

- L. 12th Street Rag - hrn, ten, piano, bass, drums (Score Only).
- M. Bananera (arr. #3) hrn, ten, ten. trom, piano, bass, drums.
- N. Bananera (arr. #2) hrn, trom, guitar, bass, drums.
- O. Flip - Tip (arr #1) trumpet, alto, horn, ten, bari, tuba, piano, bass, drums.
- P. My Buddy - hrn, 2 ten, bari piano, bass

## II. ORIGINAL JAZZ COMPOSITIONS by John Graas

- A. Sequence - hrn, ten, piano, bass, drums.
- B. Mozantesque - hrn, clar, vib, guit, bass, drums.
- C. LaPaz - tenor, trom, piano, bass, drums.
- D. Land of Broken Toys - fl, ob/cl/alto, tpt, hrn, tuba, piano, bass, drums.
- E. Ladylike - Tenor, hrn, piano, bass, drums.
- F. Pick Yourself Up - hrn, alto, tenor, guitar, piano, bass, drums.
- G. Not Exactly - Arr. by S. Rogers - hrn, alto, tenor, bari, bass sax, tuba, piano.
- H. Pick Yourself Up - (arr. #2) Full Jazz Band.
- I. Canon - Ball (arr. #4) - alto, hrn, ten, trom, piano, bass, drums.
- J. Lighthouse 6/4 - hrn, alto, ten, trom, guit, piano, bass, drums.
- K. Rogeresque - hrn, alto, tenor, trumpet, guit, piano, bass, drums.

### Box 3

- L. Friar Tuck - hrn, ten, trom, piano, bass, drums. Arr. by Jack Montrose.
- M. 6/4 Mambo - trom, guit, bass, drums.
- N. Molliganesque - tpt, hrn, bari, guit, piano, bass, drums.
- O. Rock N' Rollesque - Full Jazz Band
- P. Patty - trom, guit, bass, drums.
- Q. Westlake Bounce - hrn, Bbinst., : inst, tenor, piano, bass, drums. Extra Parts: hrn, ten, piano, bass, drums.
- R. Canon Ball (arr. #1) hrn, alto, tpt, tenor, trom, guit, piano, bass, drums.
- S. Friar Tuck - hrn, bass cl, bari, guit, piano, bass, drums.
- T. Exactly Like You - Score.
- U. Graaspoint - tpt, hrn, alto, bari, trom, guit, piano, bass, drums.
- V. Jazz Overture (arr. #1) tpt, hrn, alto, bari, tuba, piano, bass, drums.
- W. MOTIVE - ten, trom, piano, bass, drums.
- X. Kentucky Bruce Grass (arr #1) - tpt, bari, piano, bass, drums.
- Y. Blue Haze - hrn, tenor, piano, bass, drums.
- Z. Van Nuys - tpt, alto, hrn, ten, bari, tuba, piano, bass, drums.

### Box 4

- Aa. Allegreto (arr. #2) Full Jazz Band.
- Bb. Swing Nicely - fl, alto, ob, hrn, piano, bass, drums.
- Cc. Ghost Talk - ten, trom, piano, bass, drums
- Dd. Development - 2 tpt, 2 alto, 2 ten, bari, trom, tuba, xlophone, timp, piano, bass, drums.
- Ee. Here Come the Lions - tpt, alto, hrn, trom, bari, guit, piano, bass, drums.
- Ff. Timmothy - Score Only.

- Gg. Will Success Spoil Rock N' Roll? - (arr. #2) Full Jazz Band
- Hh. Lightly - hrn, trom, ten, piano, bass, drums.
- Ii. Mulliganesque - hrn, ten, piano, bass drums
- Jj. Constrasts - tpt, alto, hrn, ten, bari, tuba, bass, drums.
- Kk. VAN NUYS (Lighthouse #6) - hrn, alto, tenor trom, piamo, bass, drums.
- Ll. Block Sounds (arr. #1) - alto, hrn, ten, trom, piano, bass drums, trumpet.
- Mm. Mood - Tenor only.
- Nn. Minor Call (arr #3) hrn, alto, ten, trom, guit, piano, bass, drums.
- Oo. Canon - Friar (arr. #1) hrn, ten, piano, bass, drums.
- Pp. Canon - Ball (arr. #5) hrn(trom), piano, bass, drums.
- Qq. Development (arr. #2) 2 tpts, 2 altos, 2 tens, bari, trom, tuba, piano, bass, xlophone, drums, timp.

#### Box 5

- Rr. Will Success Spoil Rock N' Roll? (arr. #1) tpt, hrn, alto, ten, bari, tuba, piamo, bass, drums.
- Ss. Minor Call - (arr. #2) hrn, ten, piano, bass, brums.
- Tt. Theme - ten, piano, bass, drums
- Uu. CHACONNE Part 1; CHACONNE Part 2; CHACONNE Part 3; tpt, alto/cl, ten bari/fl, tuba, piamo, bass, drums, timp, vibes.
- Vv. Minor Call (arr. #1) hrn, alto, ten, trom, guit, piano, bass, drums.
- Ww. I.D. (arr. #4) hrn, tpt, alto, ten, bari, tuba, piamo, bass, drums.
- Xx. I.D. (arr. #5) violin I, II, Viola, cello, tpt, hrn, guit, bass, drums.
- Yy. I.D. (arr. #1) tpt, tenor I,II, bari, piano, bass, drums.
- Zz. Angus (arr. #1) alto, ten, trom, tuba, piamo, bass, drums.
- A1. I.D. (arr. #3) tpt, hrn, alto, ten, bari, trom, tuba, piano, bass, drums.
- B1. 6/4 Trend (arr. #2) tpt, alto, ten, bari, hrn, guitar, bass, drums.
- C1. 6/4 Trend (arr. #3) hrn, guit, bass, drums.
- D1. Soft Light and Sweet Music - by Paul Moer, tpt, alto, ten, bari, piamo, bass, drums.

#### Box 6

### III. MUSIC FOR HORN

- A. Modern Duets an Trios (pub. Sansone).
- B. Modern Duets and Trios (pub. Sansone).
- C. Duets for Horns.
- D. Three Quartets For F Horns (pub. Mills) [copy 1, copy 2].
- E. Quartets (manuscripts for III-D).
- F. Modern Duets for Horn (manuscripts for III a-b).
- G. ANGUS - Arr. by Pete Candoli; Horn, Violine I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, Bass.
- H. Fantasie for Horn and Piano - piano, horn.
- I. Solo for Horn and Military Band.
- J. Chaconne for Woodwind Quint
- K. Atlantic Zephyrs - horn and band.
- L. Keep the Peace - hrn, guitar, narrator.

Box 7

IV. MUSIC FOR PIANO

- A. Chaconne in C (#2)
- B. Ten 2-Part Inventions
- C. Eight 3-Part Inventions
- D. Scherzo for Piano
- E. Seven Compositions for Piano
- F. Four Two Voice Canons for Piano

V. REFERENCE COPIES OF PUBLISHED MUSIC - Jazz

- A. Minor Call; by John Graas.
- B. Mood; by John Graas.
- C. 6/4 Trend; by John Graas, arr. by Shorty Rogers.
- D. Three Line Blues; by Jack Montrose.
- E. Trio; by John Graas.
- F. Billy Boy; arr. by John Graas.
- G. Blocksounds; by John Graas.
- H. Chuggin'; by John Graas.
- I. Cluster; by John Graas.
- J. Jazz Chorale; by Dick Grove, arr by John Graas.
- K. Lightly; by John Graas.
- L. Angus; by John Graas.
- M. I.D.; by John Graas.

VI. Passacaglia for Full Orch.

VII. Exactly as Recorded - Series.

Box 8

VIII. Jazz Symphony.

Box 9

IX. Tunes from Dance Job "Gig" Book.

Box 10

Miscellany

Box 11

Scrapbooks, 1939-1958

Box 12

Artifacts

Frank de Polis Mute Maker  
2 French horn mouth pieces

### **Recordings**

#### **Box 1**

- 1 Horn Quartet
- 2 “Various Selections”
- 3 Rehearsal Tape Horn
- 4 Piano – Composing –
- 5 Ear Training Sessions, Piano Chords
- 6 “Various Selections”
- 7 Recorded at 15. Horn & Bass Rehearsals
- 8 Recordings Symphony Rock
- 9 Decca & Misc. Albums – Mercury Album
- 10 Piano Compositions

#### **Box 2**

- 1 Interviews – Comments on Symphony  
Radio Interviews  
Westlake College
- 2 Recordings Stan Getz, Charlie Burns
- 3 Rehearsal – Piano & Horn
- 4 Horn alone – Testing Krispen & Conn  
Jazz Quartet
- 5 Silence
  1. Olds Chambers #2 Conn Leader #1  
a. Misc. Scales etc. 2 hrns
  2. Long tones 1 hrn
  3. Orchestra excerpts
  4. End of tape long silence
- 6 First side only, Piano
- 7 Recorded from other recordings – Shows and Symphony

#### **Albums**

- 1 *Coup de Graas*, featuring John Graas. Mercury Records.
- 2 John Graas Composes an International *Premiere in Jazz*. Analex Records.
- 3 *Jazz-Lab-1*. John Graas. Decca Records. (cover only)